

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph [0018] on page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

[0018]

The mother alloy is obtained by melting the starting metals or alloys in vacuum or in an inert gas, preferably Ar atmosphere, and then pouring in a flat mold or book mold, or pouring as by strip casting. An alternative method, called binary alloys method, is also applicable wherein an alloy whose composition is approximate to the  $R_2Fe_{14}B$  compound, the primary phase of the present alloy and an R-rich alloy serving as a liquid phase aid at the sintering temperature are separately prepared, crushed, weighed and admixed together. It is noted that since the alloy whose composition is approximate to the primary phase composition is likely to leave  $\alpha$ -Fe depending on the cooling rate during the casting or the alloy composition, it is subjected to homogenizing treatment, if desired for the purpose of increasing the amount of  $R_2Fe_{14}B$  compound phase. The homogenization is achievable by heat treatment in vacuum or in an Ar atmosphere at 700 to 1,200°C for at least 1 hour. For the R-rich alloy serving as a liquid phase aid, not only the casting method described above, but also the so-called melt quenching method or strip casting method are applicable.